

lowered body temperature. Many have serious defects of vision and ear diseases."

**The Department of Agriculture Clinics**—The department of agriculture does not propose to be behind the Department of Labor or any of the other numerous departments at Washington, who are practicing medicine by mail. Like the others, they have the great Government printing plant at their call. They have mail-franking privileges, and their clerks are as competent to give medical advice as are those of the other political bureaus. One of their recent expensive health sermons by mail told the world that a soup of chopped creamed lettuce, spinach, and cabbage was desirable for children because it contained vitamins, and that the addition of a little onion would add flavor plus more vitamins.

Now, isn't that interesting and illuminating? It sounds like the action of another department that started out to equip all mail-delivery wagons with scales to weigh all the babies with. This policy of more medicine in government and more government in medicine is still popular—at Washington.

**San Luis Obispo Vaccination Clinic**—The clinic operated by the San Luis Obispo health board has succeeded in vaccinating 229 persons during the period of its existence. The work was performed for persons in all walks of life free. It is said that most of the citizens went to their family doctors for vaccination, and that those who were able to do so paid for the service, and that others had it for nothing.

**Schools' Responsibility for Child Welfare Repudiated**—In a recent address, Edward I. Cook, professor of social science of the Junior College of Sacramento, is quoted as having said that "there has been a tendency of late to shift more and more responsibility for school children upon the shoulders of school officials. This is unjust. Taxpayers and others who should be interested in the welfare of children pay little or no attention to them. When an occasion arises in which the children's actions are criticized, the school officials are blamed for it."

"It is up both to the college and to the citizens of the city," said the speaker, "to teach students the duties of citizenship. We must teach them, by example, the road to good citizenship, and not merely hand out a prescription by which it may be attained."

Some of these days when educational leaders, less far-seeing than Cook, realize the trouble they have invited and the dangers it is bringing to the worthy cause of education, they will be glad to shift more responsibility back to parents from whom their propaganda has wrested it. They will be glad to ask the family physician to again assume the duties and responsibilities of health advice; and possibly the movement in some States to wrest spiritual development from its traditional position may be arrested.

**The High Cost of Wasting**—Ida Clyde Clarke (editorial, Pictorial Review) calls us a nation of wasters. We waste our time and our energy and our talents and our money, and, above all, we waste our power. We have enough organizations and enough professional reformers and enough people with the instinct for reform to clean up the country generally, if we really wanted to do it. But the trouble is we are not interested in concrete reforms. We don't want to see the end. We seem to be afraid of finishing things. We like the all-day-sucker variety of reform. We will work in a frenzy of zeal for anything that is intangible and afar off. Such loose terms as "Americanism" and "welfare" are music to our ears, and we simply adore the very thought of "standardization." Many of our great "movements" sweep majestically on toward nothing. Yet in spite of this we fall into line quite readily with every new idea that is suggested.

## Medical School News

**Stanford University School of Medicine** (reported by W. Ophuls, dean)—The Medical Faculty has reorganized its schedule in such a way as to reduce the required hours to the minimum required by the laws of the State of California, which is 4000 for the instruction in the first four years in medicine. Three thousand eight hundred hours of this will be prescribed, leaving 200 hours for elective work. It is hoped that in the course of time the amount of elective work can still be further increased.

It has been pointed out frequently that, although physicians naturally should be leaders in public health movements, very little if any attempt is made to teach the students in medical schools personal hygiene and supervise their activities in such a way as to keep them in good health and physically fit. In order to overcome this just criticism, the Medical Faculty has decided to appoint a physical adviser to the medical students at the Medical School in San Francisco, who will take a personal interest in them and will encourage them to take the necessary amount of physical exercise in one form or another.

There has been a good deal of complaint in and outside of medical schools that there is a large amount of duplication in the different courses that make up the medical curriculum. There is no question that this is one of the causes of the overburdening of the medical students with required work. In order to obtain accurate data as to the actual state of affairs, the Medical Faculty has appointed a committee on correlation of courses, who have been asked to study the situation and make a thorough report with suggestions for improvement.

**Changes in Faculties**—E. B. Towne was promoted from the rank of Assistant Professor of Surgery to the rank of Associate Professor of Surgery, and Jean Oliver was promoted from the rank of Associate Professor of Pathology to that of full Professor of Pathology, these promotions to take effect with the beginning of the new college year, on September 1.

George de F. Barnett, who has been in private practice at Palo Alto for several years, has been recalled to the Medical School as Associate Professor of Medicine. Professor Barnett will devote most of his time to our medical service at the San Francisco Hospital.

Mr. Maurice L. Tainter has been promoted from assistant in Pharmacology to instructor in Pharmacology.

**Health Insurance in Colleges**—"The idea of health insurance, bordering on the old 'lodge practice idea,' has invaded the campus at the University of California, American Medicine recently pointed out," says the Ohio State Medical Journal editorially.

"This great American university with 'no tuition fees, but certain small incidental fees,' exacts from the student a 'fee' for both the sick and the well.

"Each student is required to pay \$6 annually. This sum is the premium charged for health insurance, not 'only entitling one to examination, but to full care of his health for that period.'

"It is further shown that there are between seven thousand and eight thousand students at the university who pay the fee. It is estimated that the revenue is about \$42,000, which goes to maintain a small hospital and staff of physicians.

"It comes as a surprise that such an institution as the University of California would foster such paternalistic measures as health insurance, not alone from the immediate effect upon its students, but from the 'viewpoint' which is being developed toward relationship of the individual toward society."